

# THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1888.

them. The exits in the houses were shockingly small, a crying fault in most Chinese houses; and how the large number of inmates got out in safety is almost a wonder to some who escape referred to above. That our firemen should be called upon, to their own imminent danger, to save the lives and property of natives who are entirely indifferent as to the construction of their houses and the handling of lights, is a matter that should attract more attention from the authorities than has yet been bestowed on it.

The ruins are still smoking, having been over-run by coco-nut oil, which strewed from a number of casks that were smashed by the falling of a wall.

## CHINESE RENDITION CASE.

The case in which a passage boat was attacked in Chinese waters on the 23rd March, 1886, when the servant of a Mandarin was killed while in charge of his master's luggage, was resumed this morning at the Magistracy before Mr. H. E. Wodehouse. Mr. W. Wotton appeared for the Chinese Government and Mr. J. F. Webber for the defence.

Inspector Swanston stated:—When I arrested the defendant on the 30th April for robbery and murder, I had the other case in my mind, in which a pawn-shop was attacked on the 8th March last in the Sun U district of China.

Makin Shing, cross-examined by Mr. Webber: I was first employed in the He Chong shop on the 2nd moon of the 10th year, at \$5 a month. On the 13th March, 1886, I first went to Canton, where I remained till March 22d. On the 16th I collected the 200 taels from the Fook Loong shop; they paid in silver dollars and broken silver; there was no sucee; the greater part was in coined silver. I don't know the difference between a Mexican dollar and a Japanese yen. I left Canton on the 17th of the month by the passage boat; the captain's name I do not know. I paid twenty-five cents, and left Canton at 3 p.m. There were about 30 passengers, but no women. The Lan Choy told me who he was while I was getting a flight from him. When the pirates attacked him they said "whose luggage is this?" and then one of them fired a gun at him and killed him. They landed me at Chu Chow, about 15 miles from home, to which I walked, and remained there till next morning, when I went to the He Chong shop and told them that I had been robbed by people on board the junk. My uncle made a complaint to the district Magistrate at Sun U. I have no uncle in Macao nor any relatives there. Nobody gave me any money for giving evidence here, and nobody told me what to say—no Chinaman.

To the Court—I was taken out of the passage boat and put into a junk, of which there were two alongside. The pirate boat was long in the hull, without masts, and without deck, propelled by oars and with about 18 or 19 men rowing. There were other two men there, one of whom was steering. The master of the servant who was killed was on the passage boat when I left; he is a mandarin. I came to Hongkong on the 9th April of this year; I was never here before. I live now at the Yan Wo Chan boarding house with a man from Macao, who brought me here. I left my business shop because there was no opium business going on. If I saw my property I should know it again; my jacket was plain dark blue silk with brass buttons, and waistcoat of blue silk lined with cotton; I had also a blanket which I could recognize.

The witness was here shown the contents of some boxes, spread out on the floor of the Court, but failed to recognize anything.

Mr. Wotton, addressing His Worship, said he was trying to get other two witnesses from the shop where the present witness came from; that the Mandarin, who was in the passage boat, was dead and, of course, could not be called, but that some time would elapse before his witnesses would be available. The case was then further remanded until Friday next at 3 p.m.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.]

### VOLAPUK.

To the EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.—The writer of the article on Volapük contained in your worthy paper of the 11th inst., questions the veracity of my statement as to the number of partisans of the new universal language. The article is evidently the production of a correspondent who has read nothing but the preface to my first book on Volapük and has not seen my second pamphlet in which I give the names of the principal leaders in Europe. To satisfy your correspondent I enclose a circular issued by the French Volapük Society and containing the names of the leaders in the chief cities of the world. You will notice in the list the names of officers, traders, journalists, professors, engineers, bankers, judges, priests, &c., in short, of men of all professions. I should gladly send you documents, letters, cards, books, newspapers, from all parts of the world, if you would promise to return them to me after perusal. So much concerning my colleagues.

As the article in question might leave the readers of my writings on Volapük under the impression that I have been somewhat exaggerated in the facts, I feel bound to inform you that the figures given in my book emanate from a document, edited by Schleyer himself, the "Welt-Sprache-Wandkalender des Jahres 1886" or "Wall-calender for the year 1886" in which it is stated under paragraph xi that "the knowns, promoters and friends of Volapük amount to one million two hundred thousand (1,200,000)."

Your correspondent calls the daily papers "fountains of news," but it is clear to me that he does not often draw from those fountains, else he might have noticed articles in favour of Volapük in the Graphic, the Athenaeum, the Pall Mall Gazette, the London Daily Press, Chambers' Journal, to speak only of English home papers that have been shown to me. Newspapers have enough to do with politics, they cannot give all their time to Volapük. They have announced its birth, they will watch its growth, and if it proves a worthless invention they will register its burial. Meanwhile Volapük has in the world 15 newspapers entirely devoted to the defence of its cause and the propagation of its principles, and its followers are not characterized by "narrow views and big pretensions," like your correspondent, but by a spirit of international fraternization, the love of peace, and the patient perseverance which leads to success.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. A. VAN AALST.

Amoy, 12th May, 1888.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CHINA.

During the first year of the operation of the Canadian Pacific Railroad between Port Moody, B. C., and Montreal, Canada, the company was content to feed its line with Tea, Silk and other products from China and Japan by sailing vessels. Last year the company dispensed with said vessels and inaugurated a monthly steam line. For this service, three steamers were chartered in England and sent out to China. These were

the Abyssinia, Batavia and Parthia. The line was opened by the departure of the first named from Hongkong last May. She left Yokohama June 1st and reached Port Moody on the 14th of that month, making the run over in 13 days and 14 hours. No subsequent steamer on the line has essayed to cut down that record. The Abyssinia left Port Moody on her return trip June 21st. A steamer has come and gone monthly ever since. The line has now been in full operation for nine months, say, from July 1, 1887, to March 3, 1888, and is of interest to note its effect on the business of the steam lines running out of San Francisco to China, namely the Pacific Mail Company (American line) and the Occidental and Oriental Company (British line).

Each of the two lines out of this port has four steamers in commission, those of the Pacific Mail being City of Peking, City of New York, City of Rio de Janeiro, and City of Sydney, and those of the Occidental and Oriental being the Helge, Grecian, Oceanic and San Pablo, (lately lost) the first named three being under the British flag and the last named under the American flag. The two lines alternate trips with each other and work in perfect harmony, and the service is tri-monthly. California has therefore eight steamers in the China trade and an average of three arrivals every month against British Columbia's three steamers and one arrival every month. This has been the condition of things for the past nine months. The British Columbian steamers have been well patronized from the start in coming over, and during most of the period have gone back well laden. This has been especially true during the past six months. The steamer which left Port Moody for Yokohama and Hongkong last week is reported to have been unable to take all the freight that was offered her.

It is natural to inquire whether this traffic represents new business, or whether it has been drawn from the older lines. China and Japan have just about the same amount of tea, silk, rice, oil and other produce to send to America every year, and the opening of a new steam line must divert something from the older lines. Of course, the addition of one steamer every month in this large carrying trade cannot make a great deal of difference with lines previously in operation, but the Canadian Pacific people are not likely to always remain content with a single steamer every month. Thus far they have received ten steamers from Hongkong and Yokohama. The next move, of course, will be for a semi-monthly service. We do not know that the California steam lines have as yet seriously felt the encroachments of the British Columbia steam line, though there has been a considerable falling off in the value of our exports to China and Hongkong in the past nine months, as compared with the corresponding period in 1886-87. The comparison is as follows:

Quarter ending—	1886-87.	1887-88.
September 30.....	\$1,204,680	\$ 697,045
December 31.....	1,105,598	1,080,707
March 31.....	758,253	563,820
Total.....	\$3,168,531	\$2,842,472

Our trade with Japan for the same period has not varied much, the total for the past nine months having been \$579,633, against \$573,630 in 1886-87. The falling off in the exports to Hongkong and China was the heaviest in the first quarter of the operation of the new British line, and was the lightest in the second quarter, as follows:

Decrease, quarter ending Sept. 30, 1887.....	\$565,721
Decrease, quarter ending Dec. 31, 1887.....	114,891
Decrease, quarter ending March 31, 1888.....	204,433

Total..... \$82,059

The heaviest item of freight from this port to Hongkong and China has been flour. It is known that Oregon is making an effort to capture this trade and wrest it entirely from California millers. It is also known that the Canadian Pacific Company is offering strong inducements to Oregon millers. Wheat is always cheaper in Oregon than in California, and of course Oregon millers can undersell those in this State. As a result, the British Columbian steamers are taking a good deal of flour from Oregon to Hongkong. Fortunately at present there is only one steamer per month out of Port Moody, B. C., and though of late these steamers have not lacked for flour freight, the effect on shipments from California has not been felt to any appreciable extent.

The flour shipments from San Francisco to Hongkong and China for the past nine months, during which the British Columbian steam line has been in full and successful operation, compare as follows with the corresponding period in 1886-87, when no such line was in existence:

Quarter ending—	1886-87.	1887-88.
September 30, bbls.....	90,404	95,703
December 31.....	139,631	146,613
March 31.....	80,831	58,527
Total.....	310,887	300,883

The comparison shows a loss of 10,000 bbls, or about what a single steamer would take. The above totals comprise all the shipments from this port. If we deduct the shipments made by sail, it will be found that the steamers have carried in the past nine months within 2,363 bbls, as much as they did for the same time in 1886-87. For example, the ships Oregon and Annie Johnson left here in November and December, 1887, with 42,247 bbls, for Hongkong, whereas the British Columbian steamers had discovered at least accounts. These steamers little planets, thought by some to be the remnants of a formerly existing, but now exploded, larger planet, are constantly receiving new additions to their numbers by the discoveries of later observers.

Now that every thing is being done by electricity, it is not strange that the fisherman should utilize it. A small battery is attached to the rod, and near the hook is a small electric light. The fisherman lights up his lamp, and the unusual phenomenon attracts the fish. The baited hook does the rest.

The theory of evolution, or the gradual development of man from the lower form of animal life, has received another supporter in the person of Dr. William H. Bryant, who has just discovered that valves exist in the portal veins of very young infants, which disappear in the adult. These valves were formerly supposed to exist only in beasts.

Dr. Renk of Munich has been experimenting on the utility of the electric light, from a sanitary standpoint, in the National Theatre of Munich. He found that the electric light had hardly any influence on the deterioration of the air, whereas the gaslight raised the temperature of the room, deprived the air of its oxygen and rendered it injurious by increasing the carbonic acid, especially in the higher regions.

The Westinghouse Electric Company has just completed an incandescent lamp which is expected to give better results than any lamp now in use. Formerly a lamp which burned 800 hours was considered good, but the new one is expected to burn easily from 2,500 to 3,000 hours without discolouration. Discoloration has been a stumbling block in the way of incandescent lamps ever since they were invented.

The paper doors now coming into use are claimed to possess the advantage over wood of neither shrinking, swelling, cracking nor warping. They are formed of two thick paper boards, stamped and mounted into panels, and glued together with glue and poison, and then rolled through heavy rollers. After being covered with a waterproof coating, and then one that is fire-proof, they are painted, varnished and hung in the usual way.

At the recent Press Club banquet an instantaneous photograph of the president was made by the use of an unusual amount of magnesium acetic compound, the most rapid plates and the quickest working Morrison's instantaneous wide-angle lenses. Over two hundred people were present, and the result was very satisfactory. The faces of the guests were well taken as in an ordinary instantaneous photograph taken in the day time.

When the first electric telegraph was established the speed of transmission was from four to five words a minute with the 3-needed instruments.

In 1849 the average rate for newspaper messages was seventeen words a minute. The

## MANILA NEWS.

(Translated from Manila Papers.)

The new civil Governor of Manila is Señor D. José Pastor y Magan.

A slight shock of earthquake occurred at Nueva Cáceres, in the Philippines, on the night of 10th inst.

A ball was given on the 10th inst. by the crew of the Chilean corvette Abdo to several residents of Manila.

From January to April 3,390,405 piculs of rice were imported from Saigon, against 3,892,082 during the same period in 1887.

The death is of Captain Enrique Rodrigues the Riven, of the Spanish Royal Navy, Secretary to the Manila Naval department.

Ten individuals were recently apprehended at Cavite, in the Philippines, on suspicion of having murdered a Chinese itinerant vendor, after robbing him of all his money.

A decree has been enacted providing for church burials in the Philippines. Chapels are to be built inside the cemeteries, and corpses will be exposed therein, to undergo the requisite ecclesiastical ministrations, previous to being confined to mother earth.

## PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

MANY BITS OF KNOWLEDGE WELL WORTH HAVING—CURIOS AND SUGGESTIVE.

A Philadelphia oculist declares that the use of opera glasses strains the optic nerves and injures the eyesight.

Professor Swing's essay on "Christian Science" has certain merits. Here it is: (1) It is not Christian; (2) it is not science.

The United States Navy Department has adopted aluminum bronze for the propeller blades and rudders of some of the new war vessels.

Dr. Lloyd Francis gives cases in which inmates of St. Andrew's Hospital for the Insane at Northamptonshire have been greatly benefited by outdoor labor.

It is estimated that to collect one pound of honey from clover, 62,000 heads of clover must be deprived of nectar and 3,750,000 visits from bees must be made.

For cement to make joints for granite monuments, use clean sand, twenty parts; litharge, two parts; quicklime, one part, and lime dust sufficient to form a thin paste.

Dr. Charles Tuckett of St. Louis believes that the theory that human beings should sleep with their bodies lying north and south has its foundation in true, scientific facts.

A Brazilian physician has discovered that a permanent injection of two grains of permanganate of potash to a dram of water is an antidote for the bite of a rattlesnake.

A French scientist advances the theory that obesity is a nervous disorder, and should be treated by avoidance of mental and physical fatigue, and a diet of eggs, soup, milk, rice and potatoes.

An eminent physician recommends that all the wood used in the interiors of houses, and all the plain surfaces of plaster be thoroughly oiled and varnished, so that the power of absorption of foul air and gases be destroyed.

Some of the heavenly bodies are inclined to fast. Meteors sometimes attain a velocity of 18,000 feet per second. When passing through the air at this rate the friction is so great that the air is heated up to a temperature of 10,800 deg. Fahrenheit.

A Cleveland, Ohio, steel mill has put up a big magnet, extended on a chain from a crane which, when charged with electricity, does the work of fifteen men who were formerly employed in lifting billets to railroad cars. A boy can run the new labor-saver.

The microphone, an instrument constructed to magnify slight sounds, can be made so delicate that the imperceptible noise made by drawing a hair over some part of it resembles the harsh grating of a saw, or the footsteps of a fly may be augmented into a loud tramp.

Professor Elisha Gray's new telanograph is said to produce at one end of the wire an exact facsimile of the writing of the message-sender at the other end. An artist may draw a picture with the pencil in Chicago and it will be reproduced synchronously by the pencil in New York.

Dr. Leon has been making an extended investigation of the amount of iron in milk, and finds that cow's milk contains more of this constituent than either human or ass's milk. In asses' milk he found 0.0015 per cent. of iron, in human milk 0.0015 per cent. and in cow's milk 0.0040 per cent.

Two hundred and seventy-one asteroids had been discovered at least accounts. These little planets, thought by some to be the remnants of a formerly existing, but now exploded, larger planet, are constantly receiving new additions to their numbers by the discoveries of later observers.

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## Habilitations.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED A FURTHER SUPPLY

of

MONTSEURAT LIME FRUIT JUICE,  
CORDIALS.

JUJUBES, and

TABLETS.

MAWSON & SWAN'S

NEW PATENT WATER FILTERS.  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, May 8, 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1888.

LAW has not inaptly been compared to a sieve—it can very easily be seen through, but one can only succeed in getting through it with considerable difficulty and frequently at heavy expense.—That-at-least-has-been the experience of Mr. T. LOVWILLIAMSON, Editor and Proprietor of the *Bangkok Times*, in an action for libel brought against him by Mr. A. LAVAGNINO, which was recently tried in the British Consular Court for Siam. The cause of action was a paragraph in our contemporary alleging that a certain weighing machine, sent to the defendant LAVAGNINO by the Bangkok Customs officials to be repaired, had been illegally sold by him to a storekeeper for 15 ticals. There could not be the least doubt that the imputation intended to be conveyed was that LAVAGNINO had committed a criminal breach of trust by selling the property of the Siamese Government, so that the position and responsibility of the Editor were clearly enough defined, when legal proceedings were initiated, LAVAGNINO claimed damages for loss in business and reputation to the extent of \$2000, and a defence was duly entered. Pleadings were filed, but as they have not been published we are unable to form any reliable idea as to their character. The Consular Court consisted of Mr. E. H. FRENCU, Acting Consul, assisted by Messrs. E. J. SMITH and M. R. WILLIAMS as Assessors; plaintiff being represented by counsel, whilst defendant conducted his own case. Mr. WILLIAMS was singularly unhappy in his line of defence, and apparently entirely misconceived his legal position. He also made an unfortunate blunder in objecting to the Assessors on very frivolous grounds. But notwithstanding all this it appears to us that he has good reason for complain at the treatment he received at the hands of the Court. The issue was a very simple one, and presented no real difficulties, legal or otherwise. A public newspaper had imputed in plain language that the plaintiff had misappropriated a weighing machine; *prima facie* a libel of the worst kind. Publication was admitted and therefore the only possible valid defence that could be urged was the truth of the libel. Could it have been shown that LAVAGNINO had, as alleged, been guilty of defrauding the Siamese Government, a verdict for the defendant was inevitable; the matter was undoubtedly one of general interest, and moreover it has been clearly laid down that no damages are recoverable for a criminal act. Therefore had Mr. WILLIAMS succeeded in proving that the weighing machine was the property of the Japanese Customs and that plaintiff had actually sold the article under the circumstances stated, the decision of the Court must have been in his favor. All that was urged by defendant as to the assumed rights of newspapers, the absence of express malice, his own *bona fides*—in believing the truth of the paragraph, the application of the special provisions of Lord CAMPBELL's Act, etc., had really nothing to do with the matter; and defendant's paradoxical proposition that "the case for the Court to decide was not whether the scale was really stolen property, but whether he, as a journalist, was justified in publishing what he did, and whether malice had been proved," was altogether untenable. The truth or falsehood of the libel was the only material point to be decided. Generally speaking, a newspaper has no more right than any member of the outside public to print a libellous statement that is false and unjustified; there are some special matters held to be what are termed privileged communications, some of which are absolutely privileged and others qualified by

would be a case of qualified privilege and the Court would rule accordingly. Defendant was also at sea in his definition of malice. Malice in law and malice in fact are entirely different things, and it is the rule in law to presume malice in all libellous publications which are not specially justified. As ODEERS in his excellent "Digest of the Law of Libel and Slander" expresses it, malice in law merely denotes absence of legal excuse. The plaintiff is never called on to prove the existence of malice in law; the defendant has to show the existence of some legal excuse. Whether the charge made by the *Bangkok Times* against Mr. LAVAGNINO was true or false is very difficult to determine from the printed report of the evidence adduced at the trial; plaintiff swore that the weighing machine he sold was his own, and although he did not come unscathed through defendant's cross-examination, the evidence on the other side was anything but conclusive, and the result was that the Court found for the plaintiff, assessing damages at \$300, with costs.

We should not have considered it worth while to specially refer to this case, which involves no important principle and is of no particular public interest, had it not been for the unusual mode of procedure insisted on by the Judge of the Consular Court. After the pleadings were read the Judge called upon the defendant to bring forward evidence to prove the truth of his allegation against the plaintiff. Defendant very properly protested against opening the case, and contended that it was for the plaintiff, who was suing for damages, to prove that the paragraph was false and defamatory and that he had by its publication sustained injury to the amount claimed. This objection was overruled by the Court, and although we are quite well aware that the Acting Consul had precedents for this ruling, it appears to us that the ordinary and fairer course of calling on the plaintiff to establish his claim should have been adopted in this case. In *Wickings v. Fraser-Smith*, tried in Hongkong before Mr. Justice RUSSELL in September, 1881, Mr. HAYLLAR, q.c., for the plaintiff, contended that as publication had been admitted, and the only point to be inquired into was the truth of the alleged libel, that it was for the defendant to begin—the object of the learned counsel,

of course, being to have the last word with the jury. Mr. FRANCIS, for the defendant, did not contest the point, and as a matter of fact the defendant's case was first opened. But in another suit of an almost similar character, *Bulgvin v. Fraser-Smith*, tried before the same judge in June, 1883, the procedure was entirely changed, Mr. FRANCIS opening the case for the plaintiff, and we certainly think that this mode of procedure should have obtained in the Consular Court at Bangkok. But the Acting Consul in at once calling on the defendant to prove the truth of the alleged libel, showed plainly enough that as regards the legal merits of the case his mind had already been made up. And it was unfortunate that Mr. WILLIAMS failed to understand this pretty broad hint, as it was only by insufficient use of the evidence at his disposal as to the truth of the libel that he lost what was a most uncertain case for the plaintiff. We are also inclined to question the Acting Consul's refusal to file certain documentary evidence proffered by the defendant. Mr. WILLIAMS, we contend, had a perfect right to put in any letters or papers bearing on the suit. In the question of damages also, there would seem to be very little doubt that defendant was unfairly dealt with. LAVAGNINO, who is a working mechanic, claimed \$2000 and actually obtained \$300, although it is absolutely certain that the defamatory paragraph in the *Bangkok Times* never did him damage to a tenth part of the latter amount. He stated on oath that previous to the publication of the libel he made a monthly profit at his trade, after paying all expenses, of from 300 to 350 ticals, and that afterwards, in consequence of his having been defamed, his profits for the month only totalled 30 ticals. And yet in the face of an audacious statement like this, the Assessors considered that LAVAGNINO was entitled to \$300 and costs. The mercenary motives of the plaintiff should not have escaped the observation of the Assessors, and the fact that he never gave the Editor of the *Times* any opportunity of explaining or apologising, but at once rushed into court, ought to have had due weight in assessing damages. ODEERS says that in all cases before actually issuing a writ, plaintiff's solicitor should write to defendant demanding an apology and threatening proceedings, and the fairness of this course, especially in newspaper libels, which are in many cases the result of an oversight, is clearly apparent. However, our colleague of the *Bangkok Times* has had his baptism in the Law of Libel, and although it has been a somewhat expensive and unpleasant experience, we feel assured that the ultimate results will prove beneficial.

ART Dealer—I can't see why you should object to that picture of spring, Mr. Comstock. The figure certainly is draped, Comstock—Yes, but it's a glaring untruth. Where are her umbrella and overshoes—to say nothing of a chest protector?

SEVEN men were charged at the Police Court this morning with gambling at 37, High Street. Mr. Sercombe-Smith, after hearing evidence, convicted the accused and fined the two first defendants \$50 each, and the others fifty cents each.

THE Editor of the *China Mail*, in predicting the breaking loose of a real typhoon, laments that he is not the fortunate possessor of Dr. Doberck's pamphlet on "The Law of Storms." It is a sad pity. But is there no philanthropic supporter of the evening paper in the colony sufficiently generous to sport fifty cents in order to enlighten this person's crass ignorance on such a reasonable topic? If we have any more of "Brownie's" typhoons, we shall seriously consider the advisability of appealing to the public to open a subscription in order to provide the oracle with one of Dr. Doberck's invaluable little books.

IT is reported that one of the scholars at the Italian Convent, Caine Road, has died from an attack of cholera or choleric diarrhoea, supposed to have been brought on by drinking impure water. If the cause of death is as stated, which we have no reason to doubt, it should prove a warning to parents to exercise great care as to what their children eat and drink during a season when that most formidable of human scourges is always to be feared. And it behoves the Sanitary Board to remember that for some time past cholera has been prevalent at Singapore, Bangkok, Saigon, and other places in constant communication with this port.

SAYS a London Radical paper:—We have a curious way of dealing with Government officials. A man first commits a fault; a vote of censure is moved in the House of Commons. His colleagues, of course, defend him; but he is afterwards cashiered. Then he receives some title or a place. Marriot, the political renegade who represents the lodging-house keepers of Brighton, is the latest instance of this process. It was found impossible to retain him as Judge Advocate-General after the recent exposure of his conduct in connection with the Khedive. And now they have made him a knight. It is odd to reflect how the times have altered. That order of knighthood used to bring in the most honourable. Now even a Marriot is dubbed "To this poor fashion must we come!"

## TELEGRAMS.

(From *Straits Times*)

THE VOLUNTEER BILL.

LONDON, May 19.

Mr. Stanhope's Volunteer Bill has been read a second time.

### GERMANY.

The Emperor rose to-day at eleven o'clock and received his ministers. His appetite is good.

### THE SUEZ CANAL.

The Porte has accepted the Convention.

### CHINESE IN AUSTRALIA.

All the Australian Colonies have now decided not to allow any more Chinese to land. New Zealand for the present confines herself to proclaiming quarantine against Chinese ports.

### TYphoon AT LUZON.

The following telegram from Manila was courteously forwarded to us late last night by Captain Moreau Spanish Consul at this port:—

"A typhoon is raging to the N.N.W. of Luzon."

### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

MONDAY next (Whit Monday) being a general holiday, there will be no issue of *The Hongkong Telegraph*.

THE "Ben" liner *Banvenus* left Shanghai for Hankow, to load new season's teas for London, at daylight on the 15th inst.

WE read that Mr. J. C. Hall, lately Acting Consul at Yokohama, will succeed Mr. Geo. Jamieson at Shanghai as Acting Assistant Judge.

WE hear that several landslips have occurred owing to the excessive rains. A mass of earth loose and fell this afternoon in front of the Masonic Club.

ACCORDING to the *Economist Francais*, over £400,000 worth of wine has been lost to France through phylloxera—just double the war indemnity after 1870!

The German squadron composed of the corvette *Risnmark Sophie* and *Carola*, entered the harbour and exchanged salutes with the port as we were going to press.

HER Majesty's troopship *Himalaya* arrived at Singapore from Plymouth via Colombo, with military and naval reliefs on the 14th inst. She was to leave for the Cape yesterday.

THE Hollanders are methodic people. The King of Holland is enrolled among the electors classified as "Occupation—King. Residence, Noordeinde '88. Taxation, 600, 700, etc."

THE sale by auction of the Glass Works at West Point, which was advertised to take place this afternoon, had to be indefinitely postponed owing to the inclemency of the weather.

MR. Justice MANISTY thinks that there should be a special court to try betting cases. We think so too, and "go one better" by suggesting that special judges would also be an improvement.

At an Emergency meeting of St. John Lodge, No. 618, S.C., will be held in Freemason's Hall, Zealand Street, on Monday, the 1st instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

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SEVEN men were charged at the Police Court this morning with gambling at 37, High Street. Mr. Sercombe-Smith, after hearing evidence, convicted the accused and fined the two first defendants \$50 each, and the others fifty cents each.

THE Editor of the *China Mail*, in predicting the breaking loose of a real typhoon, laments that he is not the fortunate possessor of Dr. Doberck's pamphlet on "The Law of Storms." It is a sad pity. But is there no philanthropic supporter of the evening paper in the colony sufficiently generous to sport fifty cents in order to enlighten this person's crass ignorance on such a reasonable topic? If we have any more of "Brownie's" typhoons, we shall seriously consider the advisability of appealing to the public to open a subscription in order to provide the oracle with one of Dr. Doberck's invaluable little books.

IT is reported that one of the scholars at the Italian Convent, Caine Road, has died from an attack of cholera or choleric diarrhoea, supposed to have been brought on by drinking impure water. If the cause of death is as stated, which we have no reason to doubt, it should prove a warning to parents to exercise great care as to what their children eat and drink during a season when that most formidable of human scourges is always to be feared. And it behoves the Sanitary Board to remember that for some time past cholera has been prevalent at Singapore, Bangkok, Saigon, and other places in constant communication with this port.

SAYS a London Radical paper:—We have a curious way of dealing with Government officials. A man first commits a fault; a vote of censure is moved in the House of Commons. His colleagues, of course, defend him; but he is afterwards cashiered. Then he receives some title or a place. Marriot, the political renegade who represents the lodging-house keepers of Brighton, is the latest instance of this process. It was found impossible to retain him as Judge Advocate-General after the recent exposure of his conduct in connection with the Khedive. And now they have made him a knight. It is odd to reflect how the times have altered. That order of knighthood used to bring in the most honourable. Now even a Marriot is dubbed "To this poor fashion must we come!"

The late Barghash Bin Saad, Sultan of Zanzibar, leaves twenty-seven widows and 232 children. Enough has Bin Saad.

THE third weekly shooting Competition under the auspices of the Hongkong Rifle Association for this afternoon, had to be postponed until Monday at 4 p.m. owing to unfavorable weather.

SAYS the Foochow Echo of the 12th inst.:—A few crops of country teas have arrived during the last few days, and the quality is said to be superior to that of last season. The tea-men assert that this season crop will be shorter than last, and will not exceed 600,000 chests.

IF Lord SALSBURY may be believed, Great Britain, while using all possible influence to preserve the peace of Europe, has been most energetically preparing for war. We are about to credit the Premier's public utterances—but what about the guns and long promised torpedo boats for the defence of Hongkong? They are coming! No doubt; but so is the millennium.

TWO mariners "out of collar," to wit, James Kennedy and John Sullivan, made their salaam before Mr. Sercombe-Smith at the Magistracy this forenoon at the instance of Mr. Moir, the Superintendent of the Sailors' Home, who accused them of having been loaded with fire-water and very disorderly at the Home last night. James and John had to own to the soft impeachment and his Worship informed them that they would contribute one Mexican dollar to Lister's money box. They "anted up."

THE following story of the Emperor of Brazil furnishes a good illustration of the character of that gifted monarch. The other day, at Cannes, the editor of a scientific French journal waited upon his Majesty with the request that he would contribute some articles on matters connected with his dominion. "Certainly," replied the Emperor; "but what rate of pay do you give?" The man of letters, though a little surprised, having named what he was in the habit of giving, Dom Pedro added, smiling: "Yes, that will do very well. You see, I would gladly write for nothing, but I am not at liberty to do so, as ever since I began writing I have given every penny I have earned by my brain to an orphan asylum in my capital."

THE New York *Commercial Advertiser* devotes an editorial to the relative merits of the blue eye, the gray eye, and the green eye, citing well-known literary works as authorities. While it tries to be non-committal and wavers between gray and blue as the desirable color, it does not hesitate to declare that "as a rule the green eye is not admired." Anthony Trollope does not appear among the authorities cited, for if he did the green eye would have found a decided champion. In his novel, "The Eustace Diamonds," false, tricky and unprincipled Lizzie Eustace has "eyes blue and clear, bright as cerulean waters," while the author adds: "How few there are among women, few perhaps also among men, who know that the sweetest, softest, tenderest, truest eyes a woman can carry in her head are green in color."

THE Macao *Independent*, in commenting on the repeated requests made by the Canton Government for the rendition of Chinese prisoners, has the following:—"What can be the meaning of so many petitions for the extradition of Chinese criminals? They simply mean that these criminals enter into Chinese territory well-armed, and in large gangs; with a deliberate intention of plundering, setting fire to houses, murdering, etc. This does not reflect credit upon a great Power which boasts of its strength, its generals and its bravoes." Macao and Hongkong cannot be blamed for receiving those people on their return from their predatory expeditions, because they arrive in a peaceful and surreptitious manner. Had there been any police at the places where the crimes are committed, these marauders could not come and be our guests, as they would be soon exterminated." Such is the language used by the press of a colony which has just signed a treaty of extradition with China.

SAYS *Popular Monthly Science*:—Although over the whole earth a general equality in the numbers of the two sexes prevails, nevertheless each land has its peculiar, apparently constant characteristic sexual composition. In Europe there anciently was and still is a greater excess of women in the north than in the states of Middle Europe and the east, in some of which the women are in the minority. Through Europe as a whole the number of women is very definitely in excess of that of the men, and the excess appears to be increasing. It was very great after the Napoleonic wars, then the numbers gradually tended toward equality and nearly reached it (1847 to 1850, 1,000 to 1,000); then they diverged again, and stood, in 1870, 1,037 to 1,000. The phases of increased difference are generally observable after wars, and latterly appear to be the result partly of the enormous emigration which has taken place to other quarters of the earth. In America as a whole, and in Australia and Africa, on the other hand, whether this emigration with its preponderance of males is tending, the men are in excess, and the excess is increasing from the constant arrival of new parties of immigrants. Nevertheless, a near approach to equality prevails over the earth as a whole, and this whether we regard the white, black or red races, or their mixtures.

A WASHerman and a chair-cooie appeared this morning in the Police Court, Mr. Sercombe-Smith presiding, to answer the charge of being concerned with others not in custody in cutting and wounding one Wong Sam at Tank Lane on the 15th inst. Chim Chong, a bricklayer, said that on that day at 11 a.m. he saw 20 or 30 people, including the two defendants, armed with iron bars, bamboo, swords, and the defendants with revolvers, walking up the lane and going for every Chinaman they met. Complainant belonged to that tribe and was accordingly beaten. He saw three people attacked and beaten, one of whom was cut with a sword in the right arm, and was now in the hospital. The disturbance continued with much violence up to 1 p.m., when witness went with the police to Square Street and there pointed out the two defendants. Another witness, a Chinaman, corroborated the above, stating that defendants had revolvers in their right hands and iron bars in their left; he knew some of the assailants to be "pirate men." A man named Ng Sing was badly cut on the right in the presence of the two defendants, who at that time ran up to the first witness and beat him with iron bars. Mr. Webber, who appeared for the defence, applied for a remand, but defendants were admitted for trial. The trial was adjourned until Wednesday at 11 a.m. bail being fixed in £1000 guineas. Diculous pleads not guilty, and Hafford has partly confessed.

BY last advices from Batavia, (says the *Straits Times*) a sensational criminal case was proceeding before the Court of Justice there. One of the two defendants is Oscar Hatfield, an American citizen, and Consul for the United States at Batavia. He was in the employ of the firm of J. Daendels & Co., of which his fellow defendant, Fokko Aiting Ducloux, was partner at the time. The firm was managed by four partners, one of whom was away then in Europe. Ducloux, in running the indictment, not satisfied with the legitimate profits of the business, must needs embark in produce and mining speculations until he incurred liabilities which he met by acceptances to which he affixed the signature of the firm without his partners' knowledge. The Java Bank, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, were taken into the amount of 170,000 guineas. The above, stating that defendants had revolvers in their right hands and iron bars in their left; he knew some of the assailants to be "pirate men." A man named Ng Sing was badly cut on the right in the presence of the two defendants, who at that time ran up to the first witness and beat him with iron bars. Mr. Webber, who appeared for the defence, applied for a remand,

# The Hongkong Telegraph.

N°. 1933.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1888.

SIX DOLLARS  
PER QUARTER.

## Banks.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI  
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ..... \$7,500,000.  
RESERVE FUND ..... 3,900,000.  
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS ..... 7,500,000.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.—  
CHAIRMAN—Hon. JOHN BELL-IRVING.  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—W. H. FORBES, Esq.  
C. D. BOTTONERY, Esq. S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.  
W. G. BRODIE, Esq. J. S. MOSES, Esq.  
H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq. J. P. PORNECKEL, Esq.  
B. LATON, Esq. N. A. SIRES, Esq.  
Hon. A. P. MC EWEN, E. A. SOLOMON, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER,  
HONGKONG—THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.  
MANAGER,  
SHANGHAI—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND  
COUNTY BANK.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.  
ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT at  
the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the  
daily balance.

### ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.

For 6 months, 4 per cent. per annum.

For 12 months, 5 per cent. per annum.

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

CREDITS granted on approved Securities  
and every description of BANKING and  
EXCHANGE business transacted.

DRAFTS granted on London, and the chief  
commercial places in Europe, India, Australia,  
America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,  
Chief Manager,  
Hongkong, 25th April, 1888.

## RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

1.—THE BUSINESS of the above BANK will be conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, on their premises in Hongkong. Business Hours on WEEK-DAYS, 10 to 1; SATURDAYS, 10 to 1.

2.—SUMS LESS THAN \$1, OR MORE THAN \$250 at one time will not be received. No Depositor may deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year.

3.—DEPOSITORS in the SAVINGS BANK, having \$100, or more, at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. per annum interest.

4.—INTEREST at the rate of 3½% per annum will be allowed to Depositors on their daily balances.

5.—EACH DEPOSITOR will be supplied gratis with a PASS-BOOK, which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their PASS-BOOKS, but should send them to be written up at least twice a week, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.

6.—CORRESPONDENCE as to the Business of the Bank, if marked ON HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS, will be forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

7.—WITHDRAWALS may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the Depositor or his duly appointed Agent, and the production of his PASS-BOOK, are necessary.

FOR THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,

T. JACKSON,  
Chief Manager,  
Hongkong, 1st September, 1888.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ..... £3,000,000.  
PAID-UP CAPITAL ..... 500,000.

Registered Office, 46, THREADNEEDE STREET, LONDON.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN  
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT, Buys and Sells Bills of Exchange, Issues LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards Bills for COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and Agency Business generally, on terms to be had on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:

Fixed for 12 months, 5 per cent. per annum.

" " 4 " "

" 3 " 3 " "

ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS 2 per cent. per annum on the Daily Balance.

APPROVED CLAIMS on the ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, in Liquidation, or the BALANCES of such claims, purchased on advantageous terms.

AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

E. W. RUTTER,  
Manager,  
HONGKONG BRANCH.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHIPMASTERS AND ENGINEERS

are respectfully informed that, if upon their arrival in this HARBOUR, none of the COMPANY'S FOREMEN should be at hand.

ORDERS FOR REPAIRS, if sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.

In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Undersigned is requested; when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.

D. GILLIES,  
Secretary.

Hongkong, 31st August, 1888.

## Consignees.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.  
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "NECKAR,"  
FROM BREMEN AND PORTS OF CALL

THE above named Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be landed here in Hongkong unless notice to the contrary be given before 2 P.M., TO-DAY, the 18th instant.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 25th May, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on WEDNESDAY, the 30th May, at 4 P.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 2nd June, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

MELCHERS & CO.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 18th May, 1888.

## Intimations.

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**W. BREWER**  
HAS JUST RECEIVED.

STATESMAN'S YEAR BOOK, 1888.  
Carle's Life in Corea.  
Victoria Cross Heroes from the Crimea to Zululand.

Electricity and Magnetism, by Thompson.  
Commander Martin's Navigation, and Nautical Astronomy.

Froude's English in West Indies.  
Wood's Nat. History Library, ed., 3 vols.

Pole on Whist. Cavendish on Whist.  
Beeton's Dictionary Geography, History, and Biography.

Chambers's Encyclopaedia.

The New Universal Language "Volapük" by Von Anst of I. M. Customs Service.

A very fine Piano by Kirkman, trichord throughout, ironframe, and guaranteed first class instrument.

Cheap Pianos that have been on hire for few months. Good as new.

" thin Kid " Indoor "

New French Books, including "La Terre," Boxing Gloves. Cricket Balls.

Walnut Letter Racks.

Leather Covered Dumb Bells.

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